

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAM-01

SCS-03 SCCT-02 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 NIC-01 OC-06

OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-04 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 IO-14 SIL-01 LAB-06 CU-04 DRC-01 /201 W

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O 281329Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9479

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUANDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USCINCEUR

DIA

COMUSFORAZ

USMISSION NATO

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SUBJ: COUP IN PORTUGAL: SITREP NO. 10

REF: LISBON 1634

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1. ATTENTION FOCUSED LATE APRIL 27 AND AM APRIL 28

ON NOON SESSION APRIL 27 AT DEFENSE MINISTRY IN WHICH SPINOLA AND FIVE OTHER MEMBERS OF JUNTA PRESENT IN LISBON MET WITH MEDIA AND REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL GROUPINGS. PRESENT WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF RADIO, TV AND POLITICAL GROUPINGS SUCH AS CDE, SEDES, AND MORIBUND MONARCHIST MOVEMENT.

2. SPINOLA, FLANKED BY OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS, THANKED MEDIA FOR COOPERATION IN RECENT DAYS, AND ASKED FOR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE IN DIFFICULT TIME AHEAD. EMPHASIZING THAT JUNTA COULD NOT COUNTENANCE ATMOSPHERE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY, SPINOLA SAID IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF JUNTA WERE REQUIRED TO PUNISH EXTREMISTS. HE MADE STRONG APPEAL FOR CALM AND COOL HEADS, AND AVOIDANCE OF "EXTREMIST ATTITUDES."

3. ON OVERSEAS, SPINOLA REPUDIATED IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT CONSULTATION, SAID PEOPLE OF EACH TERRITORY WOULD CHOOSE BY PLEBISCITE THEIR FUTURE COURSE, AFTER ISSUES HAD BEEN CLARIFIED FOR THEM. SPINOLA SAID HE BELIEVED AFRICAN TERRITORIES WISHED TO REMAIN PORTUGUESE, AND THAT THEIR DECISION TO THAT EFFECT WOULD BE TRIUMPH FOR NEW REGIME.

4. SPINOLA REMINDED PRESS OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM PEOPLE AND JUNTA OF ACTS AFFECTING MORALITY AND JUSTICE IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER. IN STERN WARNING HE SAID THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY "FALSE CAMPAIGNS" WOULD BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. SAID EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS MUST BE IN FIRM HANDS, AND THAT JUNTA SEEKS TO CREATE NEW REGIME LEGITIMATED BY MORAL AUTHORITY, EVOLVING INTO DEMOCRACY.

5. CLOSING, SPINOLA SAID AN INFORMATION OFFICE WOULD SOON BE ESTABLISHED. ONE OF CDE REPS, PRESTIGIOUS ECONOMIST PEREIRA DE MOURA, ASKED FOR CELEBRATION ON MAY 1, AND THAT DAY BE DECLARED HOLIDAY. APPARENTLY SPINOLA DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY, ASKING ONLY FOR CIVIC SPIRIT IN ALL CDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIVITIES.

6. APRIL 28 PRESS CARRIES AN ITEM DATELINED BRASILIA TO EFFECT THAT GOB FONOFF HAS ANNOUNCED RECOGNITION OF JUNTA, HEADED BY GENERAL SPINOLA. ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IN RESPONSE TO PORTUGUESE EMBASSY BRASILIA DEMARCHE INFORMING GOB OF COUP. PRESS REPORTS SIMILAR APPROACH BY GOP

AMBASSADOR IN BONN. NO INDICATION WHETHER FRG
RESPONDED.

7. ARMY ROUNDUP OF DGS AND LEGIONNAIRES CONTINUED
THROUGHOUT COUNTRY APRIL 26 AND 27. PRESS REPORTS
180 DGS AGENTS APPREHENDED IN LISBON AND INCARCERATED
CAXIAS PRISON APRIL 26. ANOTHER 150-200 REPORTEDLY
ESCAPED FROM DGS LISBON HEADQUARTERS VIA
TUNNEL. DGS INFORMERS ALSO BEING PICKED UP, AND
ONE SHOT BY SOLDIER WHILE POINTING PISTOL AT HOSTILE
CROWD WHICH HAD SURROUNDED HIM.

8. JUNTA CONTINUES RECEIVE TELEGRAMS AND OTHER
MANIFESTATIONS OF POPULAR SUPPORT FROM WIDE SECTORS
OF POPULATION AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
SUCH AS MEDICAL SOCIETY AND SEDES. LARGE MASS
MEETINGS HELD EVENING APRIL 27 IN LISBON, OPORTO,
COIMBRA, AND ELSEWHERE AT WHICH VARIOUS POLITICAL
GROUPS READ MANIFESTOS AND SALUTED JUNTA.

9. AIR FORCE GENERAL MANUEL DIOGO NETO WAS
EXPECTED TO ARRIVE LATE APRIL 27 OR EARLY APRIL 28.
ACCORDING WELL-CONNECTED AMERICAN RESIDENT, NETO'S
WIFE SAID SHE AND HUSBAND LEARNED OF HIS INCLUSION
IN JUNTA FROM PRESS.

10. BANKS WILL BE OPEN THREE HOURS APRIL 29 AND
30 ONLY FOR ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS. STOCK MARKET
CLOSED. ALL MINISTRIES OPERATING NORMALLY UNDER
RESPECTIVE SECRETARY GENERAL OR SENIOR OFFICIAL.

11. CDE REPORTEDLY OPENED LISBON HEADQUARTERS
APRIL 26, AND RIGHT-WING JOURNAL EPOCA ANNOUNCED
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IT WOULD HENCEFORTH PUBLISH IN TABLOID FORM UNDER
NEW DIRECTOR WITH NAME A EPOCA. VARIOUS STUDENT
ASSOCIATIONS AND LABOR UNIONS HAVE CALLED FOR
ELECTIONS OF NEW LEADERS IN COMING WEEKS, AND
LISBON MEDICAL ASSOCIATION EXPELLED FORMER
GOVERNMENT APPOINTED CARETAKER AND CALLED FOR
ELECTIONS APRIL 29.
POST

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